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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/519,413	03/03/2000	George Francis DeStefano	ROC920000010	7577

7590

08/15/2002

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EXAMINER

VU, KIEU D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/519,413

Applicant(s)

DESTEFANO ET AL.

Examiner

Kieu D Vu

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orton et al ("Orton", USP 6146027) and Jawahar et al ("Jawahar", USP 6256620).

Regarding claims 1 and 9, Orton teaches a method for providing dynamic assistance for disabled user interface resources comprising the steps identifying code for disabling controls (col 28, lines 24-26); changing a state of identified code from disabled to disabled with assistance (col 28, lines 45-50); and providing code for correcting a condition for disabling control (col 28, lines 53-55). Orton does not teach the providing the providing assistance text to explain why control is disabled. However, such feature is known in the art as taught by Jawahar. Jawahar teaches method and apparatus for monitoring information access which comprises the assistance icon to provide information (col 3, lines 2-3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Orton and Jawahar before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the interface method taught by Orton to include the assistance system taught by Jawahar with the motivation being to enable the system to quickly provide users necessary information.

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Regarding claims 2 and 10, Jawahar teaches the displaying an assistance icon for viewing by a user (col 3, lines 2-3).

Regarding claims 3 and 11, Jawahar teaches the identifying a user selection of said assistance icon and displaying said assistance text (col 3, lines 4-9).

Regarding claims 4-5 and 12, Orton teaches the step of displaying an adjustment button; the steps of identifying a user selection of said adjustment button (col 28, lines 56-59); and utilizing said code for correcting condition for disabling control, and executing an action on eligible items (col 28, lines 53-55).

Regarding claim 6, Jawahar teaches the displaying a help text for viewing by a user (col 3, lines 4-9).

Regarding claim 7, Jawahar teaches the step of providing an assistance icon with said identified code, said assistance icon for viewing by a user in a context menu of available actions for user selected items (col 3, lines 4-12).

Regarding claim 8, Orton teaches a computer system having apparatus for providing dynamic assistance for disabled user interface resources comprising a processor 10, a memory 14 and 16, a display 36, a bus 12 connecting said processor, said memory and said display, a GUI dynamic assistance program, a graphical user interface 22 including a disabled with assistance menu item; said GUI dynamic assistance program performing the steps of identifying code for disabling controls (col 28, lines 24-26); changing a state of identified code from disabled to disabled with assistance (col 28, lines 45-50); providing code for correcting a condition for disabling control (col 28, lines 53-55) and displaying an adjustment button (col 28, lines 56-59). Orton does not teach the providing the providing assistance text to explain why control

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is disabled and displaying an assistance icon for viewing by a user. However, such features are known in the art as taught by Jawahar. Jawahar teaches method and apparatus for monitoring information access which comprises the assistance icon to provide information (col 3, lines 2-3), the displaying an assistance icon for viewing by a user (col 3, lines 2-3), the identifying a user selection of said assistance icon and displaying said assistance text (col 3, lines 4-9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Orton and Jawahar before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the interface method taught by Orton to include the assistance system taught by Jawahar with the motivation being to enable the system to quickly provide users necessary information.

3. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach about help systems in GUI which relate to the claimed invention.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kieu D. Vu whose telephone number is (703-605-1232). The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri from 7:00AM to 3:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached on (703- 308-3116).

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703)-746-7238 (After Final Communication)

or

(703)-746-7239 (Official Communications)

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(703)-746-7240 (For Status Inquiries, draft communication)

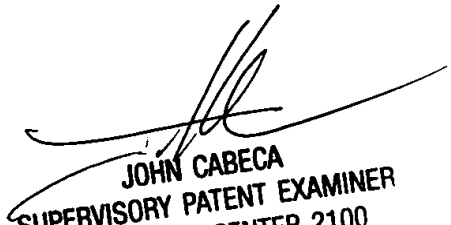
and / or:

(703)-746-5639 (use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for
"INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal
paper / amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions)

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or
proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703-305-
3900).

Kieu D. Vu

August 9, 2002.



JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100